

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0002]** The present invention is directed generally to an anastomosis device. More particularly, the present invention is directed to a paired, expandable device that joins one vessel to another.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0019]** One embodiment of the anastomosis device has a ring that is designed so that a portion of a target vessel can be everted through and held on the ring during the anastomosis procedure. The other ring of this embodiment is designed so that a portion of a graft vessel can be everted through and held on the ring during the anastomosis procedure.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0021]** The holding tabs in each ring are preferably oriented relative to the holding tabs of the opposing ring so that when the rings are brought together, each one of the holding tabs in a ~~ring~~ ring is opposite the space between two neighboring holding tabs

in the opposing ring. When the rings are brought together so that the tips of the holding tabs enter or are at least close to entering the opposing spaces between the holding tabs of the other ring, the everted tissue will be held together, creating a secure anastomosis.

Please replace paragraph [0052] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0052]** In the embodiment shown in FIG. 1A, first ring 310a is adapted to support a first vessel, such as a target vessel 20. First ring 310a has a generally annular shape and a plurality of holding surfaces or tabs ~~544a~~ 314a that define an opening, first ring opening 320a, which has a generally circumferential contour. The internal diameter of first ring opening 320a is such that the corresponding portion of the vessel to be anastomosed can fit therein. First ring opening 320a is generally round, however, the opening may also be ellipsoidal or ovoid.

Please replace paragraph [0083] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0083]** Manual manipulation may be utilized to achieve the steps shown in FIGS. 2A-2E, however, mechanization is preferred. More particularly, anvil pull 230 may be manually pulled as cutter 400 is held or manually advanced. Additionally, the

anastomosis device may be manually compressed in some embodiments. However, the paired rings of the present invention are preferably used in combination with an intraluminally directed anvil apparatus such as the apparatus disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,248,117, which is hereby incorporated by reference. Other intraluminally directed anvil apparatus are disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/737,200 and ~~Serial No. 09/460,740~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,569,173 which were previously incorporated by reference. The paired rings may also be used in combination with an externally directed apparatus, such as those disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 6,569,173 ~~Application Serial No. 09/736,781~~, filed ~~December 14, 2000~~, which issued May 27, 2003 and entitled Externally Directed Methods for Forming an Anastomosis Opening in a Vessel, ~~U.S. Patent Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_~~ filed ~~on October 31, 2001~~, U.S. Patent No. 6,743,244 which issued on June 1, 2004 and entitled Soft Anvil Apparatus for cutting Anastomosis Fenestra, and U.S. Patent No. 6,626,921 which issued September 30, 2003 ~~Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_~~ filed ~~on October 31, 2001~~ and entitled Externally Positioned Anvil Apparatus for Cutting Anastomosis Fenestra, which are hereby incorporated by reference. Alternatively, the anastomosis device may be used in combination with any suitable mechanical anastomosis techniques.

Please replace paragraph [0091] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0091]** In an alternative embodiment, the holding tabs are inclined towards the ring so that each holding tab clamps vessel tissue against the ring. In another embodiment, holding tabs of one of the rings are spike shaped or have pointed tips to better retain the graft vessel. The holding tabs are typically rather ~~rigid~~, rigid; however, they may also be designed to elastically bend in such a way that the distal tips of such holding surfaces slightly swing about their respective bases.